

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

BASIC AND OVERALL PROJECT PURPOSE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

BASIC PURPOSE

The basic purpose of the project is to implement the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), which consists of a comprehensive, interrelated strategy that provides for the conservation and management of aquatic and terrestrial species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) by enhancing and restoring ecological functions of the Delta, and improves the reliability of the delivery of water supplies conveyed through the Delta to large portions of the State of California. The proposed project is water dependent, as set out in the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines.

OVERALL PURPOSE

The overall purpose of the proposed project is the implementation of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), which has been designed to achieve the dual goals of providing for the conservation and management of aquatic and terrestrial species, including the restoration and enhancement of ecological functions in the Delta, and improving the reliability of delivery of water supplies conveyed through the Delta through the State Water Project (SWP) and the Central Valley Project (CVP). To accomplish these goals, the BDCP sets out a comprehensive, integrated conservation strategy that involves substantial modifications to SWP and CVP water conveyance facilities, including the addition of new points of diversion in the north Delta to convey water around the Delta; operational changes; extensive protection and restoration of physical habitat, including actions to expand the extent and quality of intertidal, floodplain and other aquatic habitats; and actions to address other stressors that adversely affect sensitive species. The BDCP will achieve these goals in a manner that meets the requirements of the federal Endangered Species Act and the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA), and that reflects the mandates of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009.